

# Worksession

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	7
<b>Meeting Date</b>	April 28, 2008
<b>Prepared By</b>	Ilona Blanchard Community Development Coordinator
<b>Approved By</b>	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Discussion of proposed addition to Takoma Park Elementary School
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Council often provides comments and recommendations to the Montgomery County Planning Board on projects affecting the Takoma Park community.</p> <p>The Mandatory Referral of public projects is a required review by the Montgomery County Planning Board; however, comments generated by the Planning Board are advisory in nature and not binding. Government agencies planning construction projects located in Montgomery County, including schools, must refer their plans to the Planning Board for Mandatory Referral review. Because the Planning Board's decision and recommendations are advisory only, an applicant may overrule the Planning Board's disapproval and proceed with the proposed project.</p> <p>During the Mandatory Referral process, the City typically submits its comments to the Planning Board Staff prior to the development of their Staff Report so that the City's position may be considered during the review process.</p> <p>Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has expressed a strong interest in receiving comments from the Council regarding its planned expansion of Takoma Park Elementary School. Details on the planned project were presented by MCPS at the beginning of the April 28 meeting.</p> <p>A Resolution forwarding the Council's comments on the planned expansion of the Takoma Park Elementary School to the Planning Board is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 12.</p> <p>Additional information on the County's Mandatory Review process can be found on the Planning Department's website at</p> <p><a href="http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/info/resident_guides/mand_referral_landuse_02_2007.pdf">www.mcparkandplanning.org/info/resident_guides/mand_referral_landuse_02_2007.pdf</a></p>
<b>Policy</b>	<p>Renovate and maintain existing facilities and provide new ones with recreation programs for a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and interests.</p> <p>Provide community facilities at appropriate locations to meet the human service, recreational, security, educational and other needs of the diverse community.</p> <p><i>Takoma Park Master Plan (December 2000)</i></p>

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	None
<b>Attachments</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Discuss
<b>Special Consideration</b>	<p>While the County Executive has proposed a reduction in the amount of funds budgeted for school construction, MCPS has indicated that it is unlikely this project will be cut from the budget. MCPS has indicated, however, that any delay in the design phase may result in the rescheduling of the project. They have noted that, if construction is deferred until after the June 2009 start date, the Grosvenor Holding School would not be available for the relocation of students displaced by the planned construction. The project could, as a result, be delayed for several years.</p>